C.C.B.C. NEWSLETTER
November 10, 1977

THE NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of Lehigh Valley Citizens Concerned for a Better Community will be held on Wedensday evening, Nov. 16th, 1977 at CONFRONT, 1130 Walnut Street, Allentown, Pa. The previously announced program speaker, Mark Segal, Philadelphia gay activist and publisher of the Philadelphia Gay News, has been rescheduled for Wedensday, November 30th, at 7:30, at CONFRONT. Mark has promised to appear on the 30th. On the agenda for the 16th will be: organization (perhaps electing officers), report of the stategy committee, progress reports on support statements and petitions, and the tabled discussion of gay support systems (gay switchboard, CR groups, Gay Alcoholics Anonymous.)

Although it is not safe to predict, it is probable that the strategy committee will be issuing the clarion call to all of us for action to be taken by each of us for gay rights. NOW!

THIS WEEK- PUBLICITY FOR C. C. B. C., AND ELECTIONS IN ALLENTOWN

On Sunday, Nov. 3rd, the Sunday Call Chronicle carried two stories we hope none of you missed. The first was a prominently placed article documenting discrimination against gays by the Americus Hotel, and the Genetti Hotels. This article proved the case for gay rights, BUT, the question is, what are we, Allentown City Council, or the public going to do about it.

The second article announced the arrival of C.C.B.C. The report was not altogether accurate due to some hidden sorcery (the devil made me do it!). Actually, the article we submitted was somewhat longer. It is unfortunate that mostly the errors got printed.

Elections in Allentown are a mind-bender. And the results have completely changed the frame in which we seek gay rights. Allentown City Council, presently composed of Watson Skinner (D), Thelma Barnes (R), Alton Fry (D), Ben Howells (D), Sam Costa (D), Leon Hontz (D), and Karl Kercher (Chairperson,D), will be losing the latter named three members in January. Replacing them will be Linda Rosenfeld (D), Rev. Guy Kratzer (R), and Bob Smith (R). We know nothing of the new members, least of all how they would stand on gay rights. We can guess even less about Mayor-elect Frank Fischl.

The Dadonna administration is now a lame duck. And whether city council will attempt any serious legislation in these closing days is unknown.

In addition, the Human Relations Commission will change a lot in or before January. Bob Manley, the present director was appointed by Dadonna and will likely be replaced by FIschl; new commission member s will be serving, and other new members may be appointed by the new mayor. The full commission consists of 16 members appointed by the mayor, the director, and four or five staff members. And the commission is funded by the city. Thus their power and authority comes from (1) funding, and (2) the members appointed.

The strategy committee should have a fine time of it, weighing the above and other informative factors.

It is interesting to note that gay backlash may have cost Mayor Dadonna tthe election. Of the 139 votes seperating Dadonna and Fischl, it would have only taken 70 to reverse the election results. It is impossible to know who or how many persons may have voted against Dadonna because of his remarks on gay rights, but a strong line of reasoning tells us that it made a difference.

Being gay is described by experts as the single most important fact of a gay persons life. A great many actions in life are referred to this fact. And anyone who thinks gays do not react to being stepped on should hear what any gay in America has to say about Anita Bryant. (Rumor has it that a plot was hatching to put a pie in Dadonna's face.)

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